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1972/08/31

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DE RUFNPS #6514 2441658
O 311634Z AUG 72
FM USDEL FRANCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6126

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE 720

C O N F I D E N T I A L USDEL FRANCE 16514

LIMDIS

SUBJ: 157TH PLENARY SESSION: IMMEDIATE SUMMARY REPORT

72 AUG 31 PM 1.05

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1. BOTH COMMUNIST SPEAKERS DERIDED SIGNIFICANCE OF US WITHDRAWAL OF ADDITIONAL 12,000 TROOPS AND ASSERTED REMARKS OF PRESIDENT NIXON AT AUGUST 29 PRESS CONFERENCE INDICATED US INTENDS TO CONTINUE ITS POLICY OF AGGRESSION, SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT THIEU, AND ESCALATION OF WAR USING AIR AND NAVAL FORCES. PRG 7 POINTS WERE CITED AS PROVIDING CORRECT SOLUTION FOR WAR, AND US WAS CALLED UPON TO STOP ACTS OF WAR, WITHDRAW QUICKLY FROM VIET-NAM, STOP SUPPORTING THIEU, AND NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY. ✓

2. MADAME BINH URGED AT LENGTH THAT 3-ELEMENT GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CONCORD WOULD NOT BE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED, AND THAT ONLY SUCH A GOVERNMENT IS QUALIFIED TO ORGANIZE TRULY FREE ELECTIONS. SHE MADE STANDARD CRITICISM OF THIEU REGIME AS FASCIST AND REPRESSIVE.

3. NGUYEN MINH VY, SUBBING AGAIN THIS WEEK FOR XUAN THUY, SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH ON BOMBING AND MINING OF NVN, INCLUDING PERFUNCTORY MENTION OF DIKES, AND CALLED ON PRESIDENT NIXON TO RESPECT 1968 "ENGAGEMENT" OF US TO STOP ALL ACTS OF WAR AGAINST DRV. VY ALSO REJECTED MAY 8 PROPOSAL, AND ASSERTED US POLICY IS INCREASING NUMBER OF US POWS AND THUS BELYING PRESIDENT NIXON'S EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN FOR THEM.

4. AMBASSADOR LAM FOR GVN STRESSED THAT OTHER SIDE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR WAR AND WAS AGGRESSOR, IN SPITE OF ATTEMPTS TO CLAIM OTHERWISE, AND DEMONSTRATED THAT IT IS STUBBORNNES OF HANOI IN MAKING UNCHANGING DEMANDS WITH REGARD TO BOTH POLITICAL AND MILITARY ASPECTS OF A SOLUTION THAT IS BLOCKING SETTLEMENT. LAM NOTED FACT THAT MOST RECENT AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL IS TAKING PLACE AT A TIME WHEN NVN WAS CONTINUING OFFENSIVE AND MAKING FRESH INFILTRATIONS MADE CLEAR DETERMINATION OF GVN

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Authority

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By (w/11)

DATE 3/1/00

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AND USG TO BRING US PRESENCE RAPIDLY TO A MINIMUM.
HE ALSO MENTIONED GVN OFFER TO REPATRIATE 600 SICK AND
WOUNDED NVN POWS.

5. AMBASSADOR PORTER IN PRELIMINARY REMARKS CITED
OUR WITHDRAWAL OF AN ADDITIONAL 12,000 TROOPS AS EVIDENCE
OF SUCCESS OF VIETNAMIZATION, NOTED WE STILL PREFER
NEGOTIATIONS TO VIETNAMIZATION AND URGED SETTLEMENT ON
THE BASIS ON MAY 8 PROPOSALS, AND EMPHASIZED OUR WITHDRAWAL
WILL NOT BE TOTAL AS LONG AS OTHER SIDE HOLDS AMERICAN
POWS. IN HIS PREPARED STATEMENT PORTER NOTED STUBBORNNESS
OF OTHER SIDE, AND CONTRASTED THEIR INVASION WITH OUR
WITHDRAWALS, THEIR APPEALS FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WITH
THEIR PRESENCE IN LAOS AND CAMBODIA, THEIR INDIGNATION
ABOUT US ACTIONS AGAINST NVN WITH THEIR INTENSIFIED
EFFORTS IN SVN, AND THEIR PRETENSION TO HUMANE CONCERN
FOR POWS WITH THEIR FAILURE TO ACCEPT GVN REPATRIATION
OFFER.

6. DURING REBUTTALS COMMUNIST SIDE REITERATED POINTS
ABOVE, WITH VY AT ONE POINT CITING AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN
TO EFFECT AMERICANS SHOULD NOT DIE TO KEEP ONE MAN, PRESIDENT
THIEU, IN POWER.

7. OTHER SIDE DID NOT REPLY WHEN AMBASSADOR PORTER
QUOTED A STATEMENT BY NORTH VIETNAMESE PRESIDENT THANG
THAT NVN PEOPLE MUST "LOVE AND HELP" NVA SICK AND WOUNDED
COMBATANTS, AND PRESSED FOR EXPLANATION OF HOW THIS
STATEMENT WAS COMPATIBLE WITH DRV DISREGARD OF
GVN REPATRIATION OFFER.

8. WE AGREED TO MME. BINH'S PROPOSAL TO MEET AGAIN SEPT. 7.
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